November 25, 2001

Your Honorable Judge J. Frederick Motz,

Regarding your requests for comments on interested third parties on the Microsoft class action lawsuit.

Any settlement with Microsoft on this issue to help our schools MUST NOT INVOLVE ANY MICROSOFT SOFTWARE AT ALL. Otherwise, we are just helping their illegal monopoly! That would be foolish and embarrassing to our Country.

Options to be considered:

- The money a school receives from Microsoft can be used for Macintosh OS X hardware and software. No Microsoft software can be provided on these machines.

- The money a school receives from Microsoft can be used to by Intel hardware running School friendly Free Operating systems and Software. No Microsoft software can be automatically provided on these machines.

For the latter option, it would be straight-forward for a non-Microsoft firm to be hired (at Microsoft's expense) to create a Free software pack running:

Linux + Gnome + Java + Netscape + StarOffice

or similar 100% free software.

Related to the latter option, please also consider seriously the formal proposal by Red Hat described at:

http://www.redhat.com/about/presscenter/2001/press_usschools.html

this appears to be a very good option.

At the very least, make it a requirement that NONE of the cost value includes Microsoft software. The amount of the settlement (that should

be a great deal larger than $1 billion), should go entirely to hardware and non-Microsoft software. If Microsoft wants to send its software to the schools for zero cost under separate cover, that is their option, but must not be counted in the settlement amount or co-shipped on or with the computers.

Sincerely,

Karl Runge

Karl Runge

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MESSAGE:

Suggested Hardware and Software options for proposed Microsoft settlement